

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph:

cl [0030] The pH of the polishing slurry may be varied by adding a source of hydroxyl ions to the slurry. Suitable sources of hydroxyl ions may include potassium hydroxide (KOH), ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), magnesium hydroxide (MgOH) (Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>), calcium hydroxide (~~CaOH~~) (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>), and combinations thereof, among others.